

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hirokazu KARASAWA et al.
Title: 3-DIMENSIONAL ULTRASONOGRAPHIC DEVICE
Appl. No.: Unassigned
Filing Date: 12/14/2005
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR §1.491.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The relevance of non-English language document A4 is described in the present specification.

Documents A5-A7, A9-12 and A14 listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 were cited as being relevant during a search of the corresponding International application. A copy of the International Search Report setting forth the portion of each reference considered relevant by the examiner is attached.

Document A13 discloses an ultrasonic imaging technique of structure configuration under an opaque medium like liquid sodium.

Documents A3, A4 and A5 belong to the same “patent family,” whereby the English language document may assist the PTO in understanding the content of the non-English language document.

Documents A2, A7 and A8 belong to the same “patent family,” whereby the English language document may assist the PTO in understanding the content of the non-English language document.

Documents A1 and A12 belong to the same “patent family,” whereby the English language document may assist the PTO in understanding the content of the non-English language document.

Unless otherwise indicated, no English translation is readily available (not considering machine-generated translations that may be freely available online, to both the Applicant and

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Atty. Dkt. No. 017447-0193

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the PTO) for each of the non-English language documents. However, a commercially available English language abstract is provided herewith, where indicated on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. Inasmuch as Applicants have endeavored to provide at least one item that complies with the requirement for a "concise explanation of relevance" for each of the non-English language documents, each of these documents has been submitted in compliance with the PTO requirements and should be considered by the Examiner (37 CFR §1.97, §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Applicants respectfully request that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 14, 2005

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By 

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: December 14, 2005 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
Application Number		Unassigned 560436			
Filing Date		12/14/2005			
First Named Inventor		Hirokazu KARASAWA			
Group Art Unit		Unassigned			
Examiner Name		Unassigned			
Attorney Docket Number		017447-0193			

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	6,283,918	B1	KANDA ET AL.	09-04-2001	
	A2	5,475,613		ITOGA ET AL.	12-12-1995	
	A3	2004/0024320	A1	KARASAWA ET AL.	02-05-2004	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A4	JP	2003-149213	A	TOSHIBA CORP.	05-21-2003		Abst.
	A5	WO	03/042686	A1	KABUSHIKI KAISHA TOSHIBA	05-22-2003		Abst.
	A6	JP	2002-048867	A	MITSUBISHI HEAVY IND. LTD.	02-15-2002		Abst.
	A7	JP	06-102258	A	KAWASAKI HEAVY IND. LTD.	04-15-1994		Abst.
	A8	WO	92/18862	A1	KAWASAKI JUKOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA ET AL.	10-29-1992		Abst.
	A9	JP	06-294779	A	HITACHI CONSTR. MACH. CO., LTD.	10-21-1994		Abst.
	A10	JP	11-118775	A	CANON INC.	04-30-1999		Abst.
	A11	JP	10-062396	A	FURUNO ELECTRIC CO., LTD.	03-06-1998		Abst.
	A12	JP	11-164833	A	TOSHIBA CORP.	06-22-1999		Abst.
	A13	JP	06-050744	A	TOSHIBA CORP.	02-25-1994		Abst.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
	A14	Satoshi Nagai et al., "Development of Visual Inspection Technique Under Sodium in FBR," The Thermal and Nuclear Power, Vol. 47, No. 8, August 15, 1996, pages 846-852.	

Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.